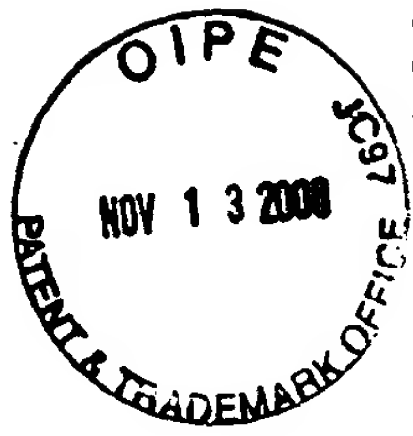


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING 37 C.F.R. 1.8	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on the date below:	
10-9-00 Date	<i>Jan Fuder</i> Signature



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Harry A. Loder and Duane T. Smith

Serial No.: 09/643,333

Filed: August 22, 2000

For: OPTICAL FIBER CONNECTOR  
SYSTEM

Group Art Unit: 2874

Examiner: Unknown

Atty. Dkt. No.: 55243USA3B.009

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, it is respectfully requested that this Information Disclosure Statement be entered and the documents listed on attached Form PTO-1449 be considered by the Examiner and made of record.

This application is a continuation-in-part application of Serial No. 09/443,713, filed December 1, 1999 and is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. In accordance with Rule 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d) copies of the listed documents are not enclosed as they have been previously cited by and submitted to the Patent and Trademark Office on August 3,

2000 for the prior application, Serial No. 09/443,713. As the submission date was so close to the filing date of this continuation-in-part, this PTO Form 1449 is for the purpose of being certain that the patents are listed on the current patent application. This form is solely for the convenience of the Examiner.


In accordance with 37 C.F.R §§ 1.97(g),(h), this Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, and is not to be construed to be an admission that the information cited is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(b).

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed prior to the receipt of a first Official Action reflecting an examination on the merits, and hence is believed to be timely filed in accordance with 37 C.F.R § 1.97(b). No fees are believed to be due in connection with the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement, however, should any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 to 1.21 be deemed necessary for any reason relating to these materials, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from 3M Innovative Properties Company Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R § 1.97(e)(1), Applicant hereby certifies that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the present statement.

Applicant respectfully requests that the listed documents be made of record in the present case.

Respectfully submitted,

By:   
Néstor F. Ho, Reg. No. 39,460

Date: November 8, 2000

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